



Speaker McCarthy Certainly Got This One Right | Opinion

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By [Mark Goldfeder](#)

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On Tuesday evening House Speaker [Kevin McCarthy](#) (R-CA) [canceled](#) an [event](#) that Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) was set to host today at the U.S. Capitol with the purpose of mainstreaming her antisemitic historical revisionist [views](#). Tlaib may yet find another (less prestigious) venue and, of course, she has the right to say whatever she wants, [however abhorrent](#), about Jews and the Jewish State. But the public should hold her accountable for the lies she is now spreading; they have been used to justify the murders of Americans and Israelis.

Tlaib's "Nakbah Day" commemoration was designed to "educate members of [Congress](#) and their staff" with a falsified Middle East narrative. But the modern history of Israel is not lost in the shrouds of time, and there are clear contemporaneous records that give the lie to Tlaib's words.



Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) speaks during a news conference about the Justice For All Act outside the U.S. Capitol March 9, in Washington, DC. **DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES**

"When it is asked what is meant by the development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine, it may be answered that it is not the imposition of a Jewish nationality upon the inhabitants of Palestine... but the further development of the existing Jewish community... [I]n order that this community should have the best prospect of free development... it is essential that it should know that it is in Palestine as of right and not on sufferance. That is the reason why it is necessary that the existence of a Jewish National Home in Palestine should be internationally guaranteed, and that it should be formally recognized to rest upon ancient historic connection."

Britain was allowed to change the terms in the territory east of the Jordan: it did so, and gave 77 percent of the original area to what is now Jordan. When the [United Nations](#) was formed, it proposed a partition plan for the remaining 23 percent: Resolution 181 would have created two states, an independent Israel and an independent Palestine. The Jewish community accepted those terms, and declared the State of Israel. The Arab community refused, and launched a genocidal war that they then lost.

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Over time, Palestinians developed the "Nakba" myth, in which the would-be ethnic-cleansing Arab armies (who had failed in their stated mission to kill all the Jews) are reimagined as the helpless victims of a horrible catastrophe (or "nakba," in Arabic). The Nakbah legend—that the Jews came in and violently expelled the majority of Arabs from their homes—fuels much of modern anti-Zionism. And it is also worth noting that the 'Nakbah' commemoration is not even ostensibly about any kind of settlement or post-1967 occupation claims: this is nakedly a demonstration against Israel's very existence.

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It is important to correct the record, for two reasons:

First, because truth matters. Primary sources from around the world describe how the vast majority of Arabs who left their homes did so either voluntarily, or under orders from the invading *Arab* armies—not from the Israelis.

Just read the Jordanian daily *Ad Difaa* (September 6, 1954), for example: "The Arab governments told us: Get out so that we can get in. So, we got out, but they did not get in." Or just look at [the UN Security Council Official Records](#) (Third Year N. 62, April 23, 1948, p. 14), in which Jamal Bey Hussein, representative of the Arab Higher Committee, explained that "The Arabs did not want to submit to a truce . . . they rather preferred to abandon their homes, their belongings and everything they possessed in the world and leave the town. This is in fact what they did."

Oddly enough, and almost as if to reinforce what the *real* disaster was, the official 'Nakbah Day' is May 15—the anniversary of the day on which the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq all invaded Israel in their doomed attempt to destroy it.

The second reason to correct the record is because *this* lie in particular has deadly consequences for both Americans and Israelis.

In March 1976, in a column for *Falastin a-Thaura* (the PLO's weekly), Mahmoud Abbas [noted](#) that "The Arab armies entered Palestine to protect the Palestinians from the Zionist tyranny but, instead, they abandoned them, *forced them to emigrate and to leave their homeland*, and threw them into prisons similar to the ghettos in which the Jews used to live."

Then 'Nakbah Day' was invented by Yasser Arafat in 1998, and by 2011 Abbas' memory had faded in direct proportion to its rising popularity. Abbas, now president of the Palestinian Authority, rewrote history in a *New York Times* op-ed claiming that "Zionist forces



as an excuse to reaffirm his government's ongoing commitment to "pay for [slay](#)," the Palestinian Authority policy under which terrorists who kill Israeli or [American](#) citizens are celebrated as heroes and financially rewarded.

Of course, it *was* a disaster for the Arabs to reject the U.N.'s Partition Plan; ignore the Jewish people's legitimate and indigenous claims; and resort to deadly violence. But that does not mean there cannot be hope for a better future. The *continuing* disaster is the 'leadership' of people like Abbas and Tlaib who engage in the same delegitimization and denial that led to the mistakes of 1948, and think that this time, somehow, their results might be different. Hopefully that will change, but in the meantime kudos to the speaker for not letting Tlaib share her ahistorical, antisemitic views under the false imprimatur and borrowed respectability of a congressional event.

Dr. Mark Goldfeder, Esq. is director of the National Jewish Advocacy Center.

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In 1922, the League of Nations did, indeed, assign a British Mandate for Palestine. And that mandate inserted the Balfour Declaration. But the League of Nations did not assign/gift anything to Jews. The White Paper you refer says that Jews should be allowed to return to Palestine as a right and ...

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B b4liberty ...

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Today, the Zionist Israelis under criminal Netanyahu are controlling an apartheid state with Palestinians as the abused, downtrodden caste.

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Her "antisemitic historical revisionist" views. hmmm

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Has anyone looked into her family's affiliations in the palestinian held territories? Does her grandma that she speaks of support the PA /fatah and the plo or maybe Hamas?

Does tliab have any other relatives in the palestinian held territories? What are their affiliations?

Tliab has one purpose and...

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Three things can be true at once. 1) The Palestinians screwed up by not setting up their own state based on the 1948 agreement and the ensuing attack on the state of Israel was racist/anti-semitic garbage. 2)

The arab world has used and abused the Palestinian people by acting as though they care ab...

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B Bill

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